THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The statutory enquiry into the accident conducted by an officer of the Directorate General of Mines Safety revealed that in an open cast working of quartzite sand (Bajri), having four benches each of about 3 to 4 metres high and 0.6 to 1.5 metres wide, when two cutters were cutting the minerals in lower two benches and eight truck loaders were loading it in two trucks positioned at the base of the quarry, a mass of quartzite sand, measuring 11.2m. high x 9.3 m. wide x 2.25 m. thick (average), collapsed from a height of about 4.8 m. burying both the cutters and five truck loaders. They were found dead when extricated, about two hours later. One of the truck loaders reported to have sustained injuries.

Had the side of the opencast workings been kept benched as prescribed in Regulation 106(1)(a) of the Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961, this accident could have been averted. The Enquiry Officer found the nominated owner, the agent, the manager the mine-foreman and the mining mate responsible for the accident.

(b) Prohibitory orders under Section 22(3) of the Mines Act, 1952 have been imposed in dangerous pits/quarries of Bhatti Mines prohibiting extraction of bajri from such pits. The management have been permitted to engage persons only for removal of alluvium for forming benches in overburden from top downwards to make the pits/quarries safe. The Delhi Administration have reported that instructions have been issued to the Delhi State Mineral Development Corporation regarding removal of overburden, construction of safety benches in accordance with the relevant regulations, improvement of the administrative structure and better disciplinary control at the mines.

Agricultural acreage in Scheduled Areas of Andhra Pradesh

@@2682. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the agricultural acreage in Scheduled Areas of Andhra Pradesh (TRIBAL AREAS);

(b) what is the extent of this land under non-tribal ownership presently in Scheduled Areas; and

(c) what steps are being taken and incentives being given to non-tribals to vacate this land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) to (c) Material would be obtained from Andhra Pradesh Government and placed on the Table of the House.

2683. [*Transferred to the 4th September*, 1990)

Public undertakings under the Ministry of Railways

2684. SHRI PASUMPON THAKIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many public undertakings, with their names, are under Administrative control of the Ministry of Railways;

(b) how the recruitment to these organisations is made;

(c) whether it is a fact that retired Railway staff and officers joined in these organisations; and

(d) if so, the details of those retired officials who joined in these organisations for the last eight months after the new Government came into power?

@@Previously Unstarred Question 1747 transferred from 22nd August, 1990.